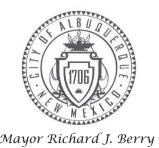


## OPEN SPACE newsletter Mayor Richard J. Berry



A Quarterly Newsletter of the Open Space Division and the Open Space Alliance

Volume 12, Issue 1, January - March 2011

**RECOVERY JOB** COUNTER

as of 5/27/2009

## Of Bridges and Bees A Message from Mayor Richard J. Berry

As 2010 comes to an end we can look at the great accomplishments that were made during the year. The

2010 Summer Series was a success with record breaking attendance and a notable second year with exciting and fun Sunday Hikes and educational programs. The Open Space staff also worked diligently with a multitude of volunteers throughout the year to clean up trash, remove graffiti, build new sustainable trails and maintain existing trails, while educating the public about how special and valuable their Major Public Open Space properties really are.

Additionally, a new feature was erected over the Rio Grande this past year known as the Gail Ryba Pedestrian Bridge. The City of Albuquerque, in coordination with the New Mexico Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, allocated funding for design and construction of this project that was completed in 2010. The bridge/ trail project extends from Coors Boulevard near Interstate 40 going east across the Rio Grande providing connection to the Paseo del Bosque Recreation Trail. This project will complete a nearly 6-mile east-west segment of trail from Unser Boulevard on the west to 6th Street on the east. Over 58 jobs were created by this project and pedestrians now have a safe and easy way over the river from the west side of Albuquerque.



The Gail Ryba Bridge

In other exciting news, the Open Space Division completed a beekeeping pilot project in 2010. For the past three years volunteers provided guidance, bees, and equipment to make the pilot project happen. It turned out that the program was extremely successful and the City has purchased enough hive material to have three full sized hives. The City's Open Space bee program will officially begin in spring 2011 with the Open Space owned hives. Be sure to check out the local Open Space honey in a year or two after the hives are established.

As always, I encourage you to go explore the nearly 29,000 acres of Open Space land the City has to offer. With the celebrated accomplishments of 2010, the Open Space Division will offer exciting possibilities in 2011. So, if you haven't already, take a stroll across the new pedestrian Rio Grande bridge and enjoy the amazing accomplishments of 2010. Bring the whole family and enjoy your public Open Space.

Visit the City's Open Space website for more details at www.cabq.gov/openspace, and please remember to respect your Open Spaces as they are delicate ecosystems. Whatever you pack in, pack out!

## **Fall Volunteer Project Accomplishments and Thanks**

~Kent Swanson and James Lewis, Associate Planners

On behalf of the Open Space Division, we would like thank all the volunteers who contributed to the success of our fall volunteer projects including the annual Día del Río and Make a Difference Day events.



For **Día del Río**, 78 dedicated volunteers came together to honor one of New Mexico's most precious natural resources, the Rio Grande. After enjoying snacks donated by La Dolce Vita Bakery and Cafe, La Montanita Coop Supermarket, the West Central Alliance of Neighbors, the House of Bread, TruFit, and the Open Space Alliance, the volunteers headed out to various projects around the Central Avenue Bridge.

During the day we filled a trash compactor with trash collected from the bosque both north and south of the bridge. Additionally, we made <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of a mile of trail improvements north of the bridge and about 1 mile of trail improvements south of the bridge. We were also able to clean up two weedy and overgrown bench/view areas, the northern parking lot and the main trailhead. The Rotary Club took a crew to the Rotary Club Park picnic area on the east side of the river and hauled off

several bags of trash from the bosque. Also, a dedicated group of boy scouts and other volunteers worked on removing graffiti from a Bosque YCC kiosk, giving it a fresh coat of paint and removing weeds from the area. Finally, Michael Hayes and Quiet Waters Paddling Adventures organized a cleanup near Bernalillo and filled the Corrales Fire Department pick-up truck with trash collected from the river in canoes and kayaks, including six tires.

After the hard work, everyone gathered for raffle prizes that included lots of goodies donated by REI, I Scream Ice Cream, and Rolling in Dough Bakery. Special thanks goes to volunteer Diana Breneiser, who helped separate out the recycling and hauled it to Rio Rancho, so we were able to recycle all types of plastic, chip board, card board, glass and more!

On **Make a Difference Day**, the Open Space Division and our partner organization the **Nicodemus Wilderness Project** joined forces once again to work on improvements at the Piedra Lisa Open Space located in the Sandia Foothills at the end of Candelaria. Volunteers and staff hauled out a truck full of trash and recycling, and we able to repair several sections of trail that were damaged due to the heavy summer rains. The U.S. Forest Service pitched in with their trail crew to help with graffiti removal. Robert K. Dudley and Yih-Ming Hsu of the Nicodemus Wilderness Project along with Boy Scout Troop 29, lead by Bob Scott, planted cottonwoods and native shrubs in the riparian area of Piedra Lisa. A special thanks goes to Big Brothers and Big Sisters and volunteer crew leaders Daniel Ryerson and Mike Stark.

Events like Día del Río and Make a Difference Day bring the entire community together to help protect our City's precious natural resources. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to working with you next year!

Finally, the Open Space Division would like to send a huge shout-out and thank you to the fabulous **Greenside Café** in Cedar Crest, New Mexico for their contribution to our 2010 trail season. Jay Wulf and the rest of the staff at the Greenside Café helped keep our volunteers and Open Space crew from getting too hungry during trail building sessions at our Milne/Gutierrez Canyon and Golden Open Space properties. They created custom-made burritos (that are not on the regular menu) for all participants during our long and hot trail building days to keep us nourished for lunch. This was not a one time occurrence as they came through at least five times making up to 24 burritos each time throughout the spring, summer, and autumn seasons. There is nothing like an epicurean delight to replenish all the exhausted energy while working on the trail.

Aside from the Greenside Café providing these lunches for less than two dollars per burrito, gratitude has to be given to the East Mountain Neighborhood Association for providing the funding for the food. Open Space thanks all involved for making this happen and we sure hope next year will be as great as 2010! As April Zephyr once said, "Publicly used lands are society's kindred identity."

# Trees, Rocks and Dirt: Interpretations of Nature by Volcano Vista High School

An Art Show Featuring the works of High School students responding to their experience of Open Spaces



**Where:** Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd., NW, (Between Montaño & Paseo del Norte at Bosque Meadows Rd.) 505-897-8831

When: January 8 - February 24, 2011, FREE ADMISSION

**OPENING RECEPTION:** Saturday January 8th, 1-4pm

Contact: Joshua Willis, jrwillis@cabq.gov

Trees, Rocks and Dirt are essential components of what we consider "nature," but why are these things worthy of conservation? In this unique art show, Volcano Vista High School Art Students respond to the value of Major Public Open Space lands within their city. A variety of media and interpretations will express the dialog these students have with Open Space properties such as the Petroglyph Monument, the West Mesa and the Bosque, all located near to the school. Please join Open Space and Volcano Vista HS for this exciting event. An opening for the show will be catered by Volcano Vista's Food Preparation students on January 8th from 1-4pm.

A brief vignette of Open Space: A Blue Tail lizard scurries under the arching and gnarled branches of a Juniper TREE in order to escape the grip of a Kestrel. The Kestrel's young, tiny falcons freshly hatched from their shells squeal for their hunger to be satisfied. Their nest perched against the black basalt ROCKS of the West Mesa. Meanwhile, below the nest, an arroyo has formed from the last two years of heavy summer rains. A small Kangaroo Mouse has burrowed into the DIRT bank of the arroyo. From its dark cavern it nibbles on the roots of the desert vegetation that generously blanketing this undisturbed canyon.

# Call for Poetry Submissions: "A Good Place to Stumble Upon" Traditional Haiku and Senryu

During the months of March and April 2011 Open Space will host a collection of haiku and senryu in a gallery setting. Poets may submit three to five traditional haiku or senryu consisting of no more than 17 syllables. Accepted work(s) will be placed on the walls of the gallery during the "Poetry in Place" and Recycled Art Fair exhibits.



**Note**: Applicants need to embody The City of Albuquerque's Open Space Mission Statement within their submissions. See www.cabq.gov/openspace for a submission form or call 897-8831 for more information.

#### **JANUARY 2011**

\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*. Registration is recommended one month in advance.

Every Sunday, 9:00am -10:30am, Every Wednesday, 5:30-7:00pm. *Yoga with a View*. Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominque. \$15.00 donation. A portion of the donation benefits the Open Space Alliance.

January-February 2011. *Trees, Rocks and Dirt, Volcano Vista HS*. High School Art Students respond to the value of Open Space within their city. A variety of media and interpretations are expected to express the dialogue these students have with Open Space properties such as the Petroglyph Monument, views of the West Mesa and the Bosque, still located near to the school.

#### FEBRUARY 2011

\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. Guided Bosque Nature Walk. See January listing.

Every Sunday, 9:00am -10:30am, Every Wednesday, 5:30-7:00pm. Yoga with a View. See January listing.

Time and date TBA. Composting Workshop and demonstration.

Time and date TBA: Spin-In and Wool Dye Demonstration with Las Aranas.

Time and date TBA: Knitting circle. Call Kim Selving at 897-8831 for information.

February 2011. Trees, Rocks and Dirt, Volcano Vista HS. See January listing.

#### **MARCH 2011**

\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. Guided Bosque Nature Walk. See January listing.

Every Sunday, 9:00am -10:30am, Every Wednesday, 5:30-7:00pm. Yoga with a View. See January listing.

March-April: A Good Place To Stumble Upon. Open call for Haiku Poetry. Open Space, in collaboration with Poet/Co-organizer Gina Marselle, is requesting submissions of Haiku Poems that embody The City of Albuquerque's Major Public Open Space lands. Accepted Poems will be placed on display at the Open Space Visitor Center for the months of March and April.

March and April. Time and dates to be announced. Recycled Art Workshops for all ages.

March 5, 2011: Love in the Bosque. Local playwright Phil Bock returns to the Open Space Visitor Center with his popular and whimsical play "Love in the Bosque," a story of love, jealousy and deception told by a family of sandhill cranes.

Saturday, March 12, 2:30-4:30 pm. Women's Partner Yoga. Call 897-8831 for more details.

March 25th and 26th: *Poetry in Place*. Join us in recognizing our natural resources, community and youth by connecting people to place through poetry. Email ginamwrites@aol.com or jhedderig@cabq.gov for more information

- ~Saturday, March 25th: Poetry workshops
- ~Sunday, March 26th: Poetry presentations by esteemed New Mexico poets.

\*This event requires pre-registration. Call 897-8831 or email openspace@cabq.gov to register.

The Open Space Visitor Center is located at 6500 Coors Blvd NW between Montaño and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd.

## Winter Bosque Reforestation Projects

~By Bill Pentler

Pole planting is part of our reclamation and maintenance of the Bosque. What exactly is pole planting? "Poles" are long straight branches from cottonwoods and black willows that we can harvest or recycle from downed trees or cut from existing trees.

This unique family of trees has the ability to root from cut branches, which is an amazing survival trait. We choose this time of year because the trees and branches are dormant through the winter and aren't harmed by our activities. Open Space staff choose areas which have burned or that we've recently cleared of invasive and exotic species and/or weeds and that we know will have groundwater when the river rises with the winter run-off, normally beginning in March and peaking in May. We drill down 9 feet or more to reach the water table and "plant" the poles. If we do everything properly, then a fresh crop of cottonwoods and willow trees will root and thrive



to enhance the area. We follow this up with the plantings of shrubs, such as golden currant, wolfberry, and sumac, and varied natural grasses.

Before too long we have a natural, diverse Bosque that supports a wide range of wildlife and allows us to view these areas in a more natural state. Open Space manages almost 29,000 acres of land which includes 17 miles of the river corridor. We wouldn't be able to manage it all without the help of numerous, dedicated groups of volunteers, some of whom have adopted particular areas and others who want an educational experience and to assist with our activities.

This year we also have a transportation allowance available for schools who want to join us on these important projects (see page 6). The plantings make great service learning projects for school classes and groups. This gets everyone outside, teaches an appreciation for some of our amazing natural resources, and promotes a bond with the land that we hope will be carried on through future generations. To get more information about these projects or to schedule a date, please contact Bill Pentler, 452-5222.



## Spring Clean-up in the Sandia Foothills

Join us for our annual Spring Clean-up in the Sandia Foothills, every Saturday in April from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. Tasks include trash clean-up, graffiti removal, and trail maintenance. Meet at the following areas and bring water, work gloves, and dress for the weather. Arrive early for snacks and registration.

Call 452-5200 or email kswanson@cabq.gov for more information.

- " April 2 Copper Trailhead
- April 9 Embudo Canyon (Indian School)
- April 16 Menaul Picnic Area
- April 23 Piedra Lisa Open Space (south of the east end of Candelaria)

### **GET INTO OPEN SPACE! Transportation and Service Project Award**

The Get Into Open Space program provides rented bus service for Albuquerque Public School children to attend Open Space Alliance and City of Albuquerque Open Space Division supported service learning projects. The City of Albuquerque Open Space Division manages over 29,000 acres of extraordinary land-scapes protected as Major Public Open Space. Open Space helps to preserve world class archaeological sites, dormant volcanoes, forested mountains and uplands, desert grasslands, 366 acres of active farmland, migratory bird habitat, wetlands, and a 20-mile section of the world's largest riverside cottonwood forest. The community at large enjoys hiking, biking, horseback riding, wildlife observation, and inspiration on these public lands. Open Space preservation serves to contain the growth of the city and create natural spaces among developments as well.



Open Space depends on the citizens to support acquisition and participate in public land conservation. Educating the youngest members of the community about its virtues and nurturing their relationship with the environment is a high priority. Children are the future stewards of Open Space. If a relationship with the natural world is not encouraged, future stewardship of the land and water is uncertain. Since 1996, the Open Space Division and the Open Space Alliance have worked together to provide programs for children and youth that engage them in the maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of our outdoor areas. Now, with generous funding from REI (www.rei.com), we are able to expand the stewardship experience and provide transportation for the class to the program.

#### Projects include:

- Trash Clean Up: This project is typically aimed at the very young, but is appropriate for any age. It teaches volunteers about the impacts of trash on our environment and has provided great opportunities to partner with REI and include the Leave No Trace program.
- **Trail Maintenance**: This project engages the middle to high school age student and brings awareness to the importance of sustainable trail systems. Students build erosion control features from natural materials and close unofficial trails that contribute to erosion on our delicate desert landscape. *This project is suitable for small groups only*.
- Tree Planting: This project involves all ages. Students are taught about the life cycle of a cottonwood tree and how the world's largest riverside cottonwood forest is threatened by the interruption of the Rio Grande's natural flows.

#### Every project includes the following outline:

- Orientation to Open Space and its importance to our community and the environment;
- Background and History about the specific Open Space area they are working in;
- Importance of their contribution to the environment and how it will make a difference;
- Safety talk;
- Instructions on how to accomplish the project;
- Engagement of children and youth in outdoor activities;
- Lessons Learned discussion of what the students gained from the experience and what Open Space staff learned from them.

Teachers awarded a Get Into Open Space allowance will schedule a date for the fieldtrip and receive a confirmation packet from the Open Space Division. The packet will include instructions for the fieldtrip and a post-evaluation form that will help us determine the impact the experience had on the students. For more information, please call Bill Pentler (505) 452-5222 or email wpentler@cabq.gov.

## Trash Becomes Treasure at the Recycled Art Fair

**WHAT**: An Earth Day Event in Support of the Spring Clean-ups in the Sandia Foothills

**WHERE**: Open Space Visitor Center | 6500 Coors Blvd NW between Montaño and Paseo del Norte at the end of

Bosque Meadows Rd., 505-897-8831 **WHEN**: April 16th and 17th, 2011

April is Spring Clean-up Month in the Sandia Foothills Open Space. In celebration of this annual event (see page 5) and to commemorate Earth Day, the Open Space Division is hosting



the *3rd Annual Recycled Art Fair*. Most of the trash we collect during our Spring Clean-ups gets hauled to the dump or the recycling plant, but during this time we also want to recognize and celebrate those creative individuals who turn items like plastic soda bottles, glass jars, and old grocery bags into works of art! So kick off your work boots after a rewarding day of sprucing up the Foothills, and join us for art sales, workshops, demonstrations, music, food and fun. As a bonus, a portion of the sales from the event benefit the Open Space Alliance, our non-profit Friends Group!

Stay tuned for more details!

## Get involved in the Open Space Alliance *today* and contribute to the future of YOUR Open Space!

Your generous contribution to the Open Space Alliance supports OSA's mission of enhancing our quality of life through: heightening public awareness of Open Space lands; building and strengthening partnerships with groups who share Open Space values; promoting conservation, acquisition, and stewardship of Open Space lands; strengthening volunteerism and community outreach programs, and providing financial support.

For information about our current activities, contact Steve Hamp, OSA Board President, at <a href="mailto:shamp7@comcast.net">shamp7@comcast.net</a>, or 247-2523.

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## Open Space News

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Winter:7:00 am to 7:00 pm Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm all week \$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends (505)857-8334

## PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT BOCA NEGRA CANYON

8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week \$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends (505)897-8814

#### **OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER**

6500 Coors Blvd. NW (505)897-8831 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Tuesday - Sunday

#### TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

8:00 am to 6:00 pm, all week (505) 452-5206 (voice/relay) OR

242-COPS